

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to commend the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for proposing standards to cut carbon pollution from fossil fuel-fired power plants and to thank you for your leadership on efforts to cut climate pollution and protect public health. We believe EPA's proposal is a critically important step forward, and we encourage the agency to achieve greater emissions reductions from more sources on the fastest possible timelines in recognition of the threat and growing costs of climate change. We urge you to move swiftly to finalize the strongest possible carbon pollution standards for power plants by early 2024.

EPA's recent proposals address carbon pollution from existing coal plants and existing and new natural gas-fueled power plants to tackle the stark threat that climate pollution poses to Americans' health and welfare.¹ EPA has the authority and the obligation under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to protect Americans from pollution sources that cause, or significantly contribute to, air pollution that endangers public health or welfare—such as carbon pollution from power plants. Congress reaffirmed this authority in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) by explicitly providing funding and direction for EPA to regulate power plants' carbon pollution using existing authorities, which include those in Section 111. Congress was clear: EPA can and must use its CAA authority to establish carbon pollution standards for power plants.²

To cut pollution as sharply as is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must reduce the climate pollution that comes from burning fossil fuels. The power sector is responsible for more than one quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.³ Achieving reductions in this sector is a necessity if we are to cut climate pollution in half by 2030, as President Biden has committed to doing. Furthermore, it is key to decarbonizing other high-polluting sectors of our economy that are increasingly electrifying—including transportation and construction.⁴

As your agency works to finalize these rules, we encourage robust engagement with impacted workers and unions, as well as the communities that have experienced the most harm from our fossil fuel economy and are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. These standards must include a strong commitment to advancing environmental justice and monitoring and verifying facility compliance. In addition, EPA should move swiftly to update requirements outside of clean air authorities to ensure such facilities are held to the highest health and safety standards in order to protect frontline communities. Beyond the EPA, departments and agencies with jurisdiction over other aspects of these facilities and any control technologies employed should also improve safeguards to protect frontline communities. We are also looking for the administration to recommit to its new investment programs in good, union, clean energy jobs, including and especially through the Interagency

¹ <https://www.catf.us/work/power-plants/coal-pollution/>

² <https://earthjustice.org/article/what-does-west-virginia-v-epa-mean-for-climate-action>

³ <https://www.c2es.org/content/regulating-power-sector-carbon-emissions/>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/inventory-us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-sinks>

Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Revitalization to help communities navigate the energy transition that is already well underway.

Promulgating strong carbon pollution standards for power plants is one of the most effective tools President Biden's administration has to tackle climate change. It is critical that these proposed rules be strengthened and finalized by no later than March 2024. We look forward to supporting the EPA in its crucial work to address climate pollution and ensure healthier air, with these standards and beyond.

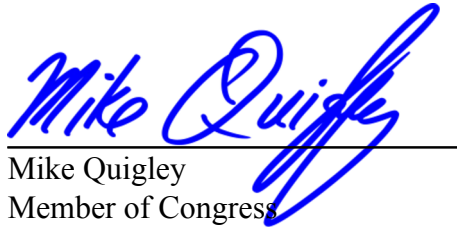
Sincerely,



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress




Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



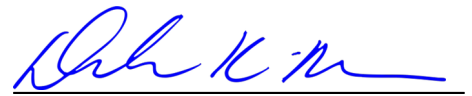
Paul D. Tonko
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Jerrold Nadler
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Maxine Waters
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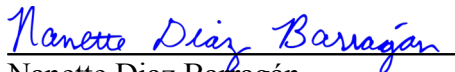
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



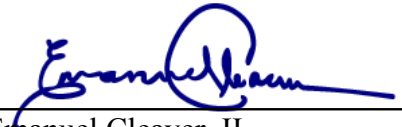
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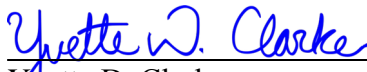
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee
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Development, and Insurance



Ted W. Lieu
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Katie Porter
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Kevin Mullin
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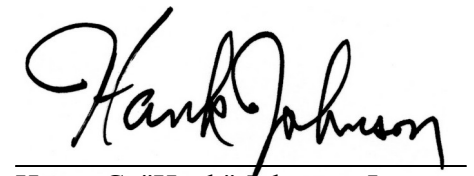


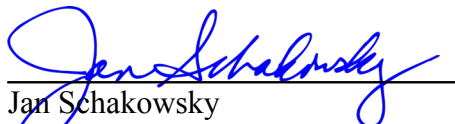
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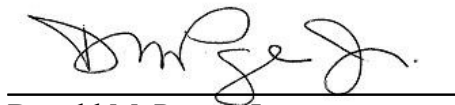
Earl Blumenauer
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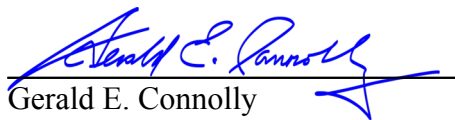

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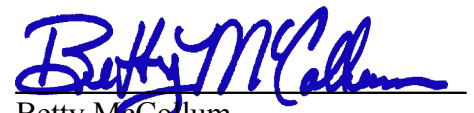

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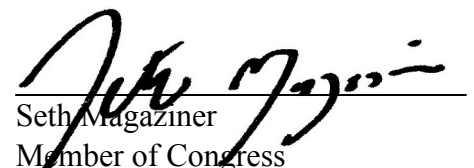

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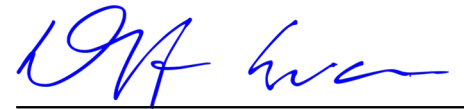
Bennie G. Thompson
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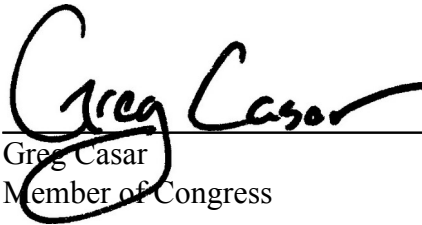
Veronica Escobar
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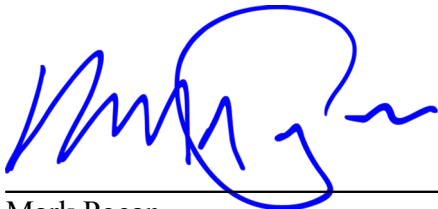
Dwight Evans
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Greg Casar
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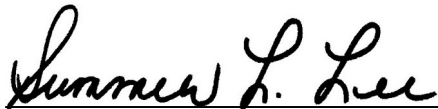
Bonnie Watson Coleman
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André Carson
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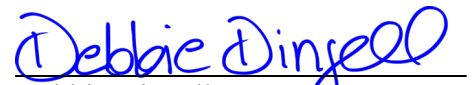


Summer Lee
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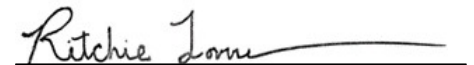

Jil Tokuda
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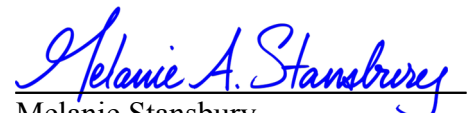

Zoe Lofgren
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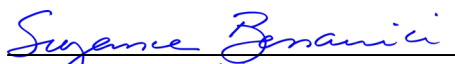

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

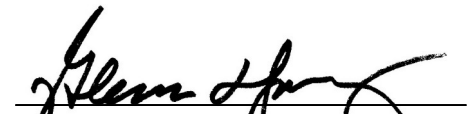

Mark Takano
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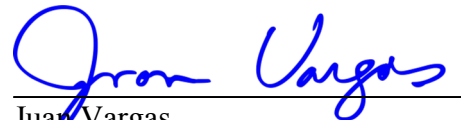
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



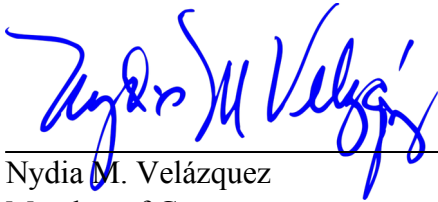
Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



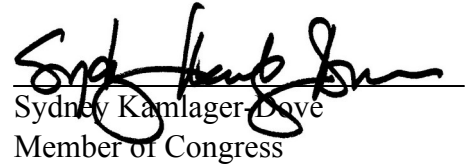
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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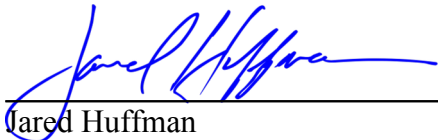
Juan Vargas
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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Jared Huffman
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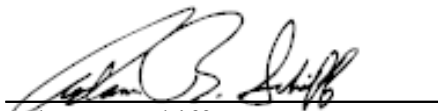
Frederica S. Wilson
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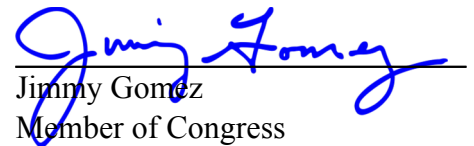
Cori Bush
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



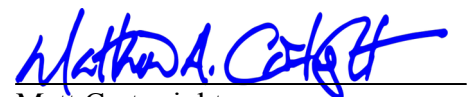
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



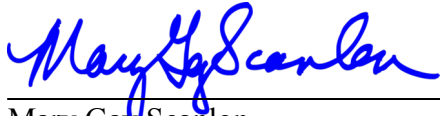
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



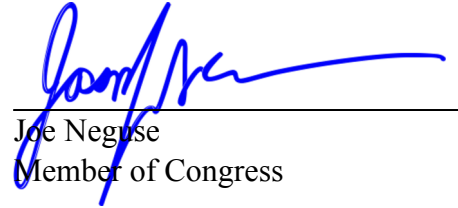
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



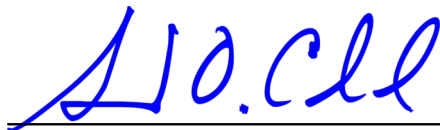
Matt Cartwright
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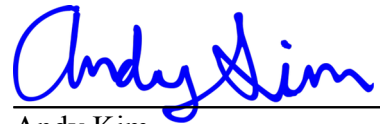
Mary Gay Scanlon
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Joe Neguse
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Salud Carbajal
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Andy Kim
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Al Green
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Valerie P. Foushee
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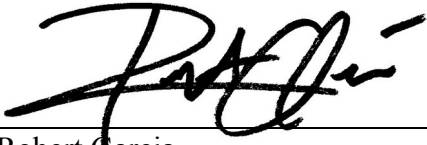
Diana DeGette
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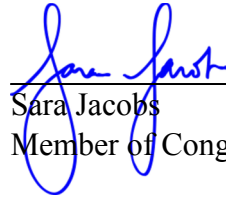
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



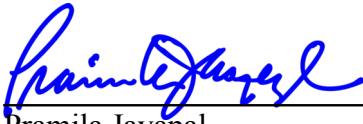
Shri Thanedar
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Robert Garcia
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Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



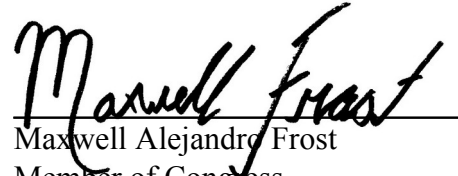
Pramila Jayapal
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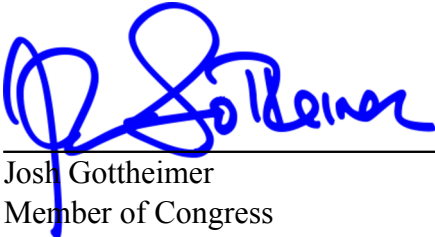
Terri A. Sewell
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Bradley Scott Schneider
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Maxwell Alejandro Frost
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Josh Gottheimer
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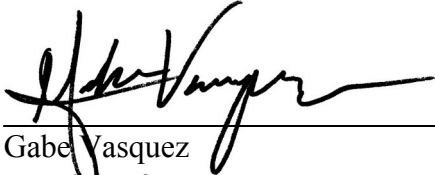
Danny K. Davis
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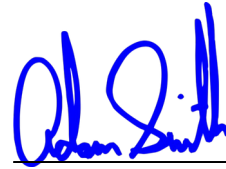
Lori Trahan
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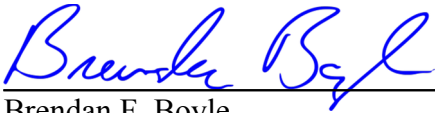
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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Gabe Vasquez
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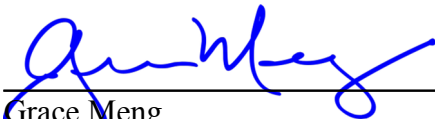
Adam Smith
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Brendan F. Boyle
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Grace Meng
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Nikema Williams
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John Garamendi
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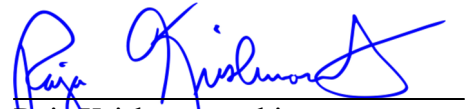
Ruben Gallego
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Rashida Tlaib
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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
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